EXCERPTS FROM THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN "DOCUMENTS ON BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY - 1919-1939"

(London. His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1951)

Excerpt from Minutes by Sir O. Sargent of March 16, 1939 (page 284):

"The Roumanian Minister came to see me this afternoon to speak about the new situation created in Central Europe by the disappearance of Czecho-Slovakia. His Government, from secret and other sources, had good reason to believe that within the next few months the German Government would reduce hungary to vassalage and then proceed to disintegrate Rumania in the same way as they had disintegrated Czecho-Slovakia, with the ultimate object of establishing a German protectorate over the whole country...."

Excerpt from dispatch of March 17,1939, from Lord Halifax (Foreign Secretary) to Sir Reginald Hoare (British Minister in Bucharest). (page 366-367):

"The Roumanian Minister asked to see me urgently this afternoon and began by repeating to me what he had previously said to Sir Orme Sargent...."

"He reinforced this general appreciation by saying that during the last few days the Roumanian Government had received a request from the German Government to grant them a monopoly of Roumanian exports, and to adopt certain measures of restriction of Roumanian industrial production in German interests. If these conditions were accepted, Germany would guarantee the Roumanian frontiers.

"This seemed to the Roumanian Government something

"This seemed to the Roumanian Government something very much like an ultimatum...."

Excerpt from dispatch of March 18,1939, from Sir R. Hoare to Lard Halifax (page 369/370):

"It appeared towns so utterly improbable that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would not have informed me that an immediate threatening situation had developed here that I called on him as soon as your telegrams to Warsaw and Moscow had been decyphered. He told pe that he was being inundated

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with enquiries regarding report of German ultimatum which had appeared in 'The Times' and 'Daily Telegraph' today. There was not a word of truth in it.

"Idasked how negotations with Dr. Wohltat were progres-

"Idasked how negotiations with Dr. Wohltat were progressing and told him the gist of what the Roumanian Minister had said to Your Lordship yesterday. Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed bewilderment and maintained under close cross-examination that economic negotiations with the Germans were proceeding on completely normal lines as between equals. He assured me most positively that there had been no attempt hitherto to introduce politics into the discussions and that the tone of the German negotiations was more conciliatory since the Czech coup than before. Minister for Foreign Affairs was in fact absolutely positive that for the moment there was no threat to Roumania's political or economic independence.

"Minister for Foreign Affairs is distressed that the

"Minister for Foreign Affairs is distressed that the Roumanian Minister should in an excess of zeal have misrepresented the situation and will endeavour to ensure that this

shall not recur...."

Excerpt from dispatch of March 19, 1939, from Lord Halifax to Sir R. Hoare (page 389):

"Sir A. Cadogan cross-questioned M. Tilea last night. He had been instructed by Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to give categorical denial of ultimatum story and informed that negotiations with German Government were continuing within the cadre which he knew.

"He said he was convinced of truth of ultimatum story which he had received from a private source in Roumania. He added however that the ultimatum had been presented about ten days before the Czech crisis and had been turned down then by the Roumanian Government...."

Excerpt from dispatch of March 19, 1939, from Sir R. Hoare to Lord Halifax (page 391):

"Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me in personal confidence that he has given the Roumanian Minister a tremendous head washing...."

Excerpt from dispatch of March 20 1939, from Sir R. Hoare to Lord Halifax (page 398-399):

"I felt only way to deal with the matter was to inform Minister for Foreign Affairs of your instructions and ack him to arrange audience at which I should like him to be present. This was agreed and the King who whowed great friendliness assured me positively there had attromment been question of ultimatum.

There was much in the German proposals that was unpalatable but no sort of exception could be taken to the manner in which they had been presented and pressed. I was to believe if war ultimatum was presented I would be informed at once and His Majesty hoped that his Minister's false alarm would not lead you to conclusion that conduct of Roumanian policy was not serious.

"Roumania would resist German pressure but she could not do so indefinitely without support.

"I am inclined to conclude that before leaving for London Roumanian Minister received from the King some sort of general instruction to use every effort to convince R.M. Government of the necessities of the situation in South-Eastern Europe and that he set about his task with impulsive naivete...